

Roosevelt High School

College Planning Guide

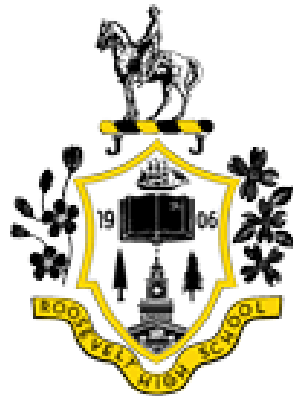


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Introduction

Welcome to the exciting, rewarding, and sometimes stressful process of career and educational planning. It is the Counseling Departments goal to have every Roosevelt High School graduate consider and participate in some type of education or training beyond high school.

Students need to select the most appropriate educational setting for themselves based on such things as career interests, learning style, finances, learning environment, location, and program offerings. Each student and their family will determine her/his own priorities. Typical education/training options include: apprenticeship, on-the-job training, military training, community colleges, and four-year colleges/universities.

The primary focus of this guide is on factors related to the selection of, and application process to four-year colleges/universities and community colleges. This emphasis is partly a result of the many early steps that a college application must go through. However, any student who wishes to discuss other possibilities is encouraged to check with their counselor to discuss post-secondary opportunities.

This journey starts with the individual participating in a self-evaluation: Students should ask themselves; what are my primary skills and abilities? What are my most important interests and values? What is my most effective learning style? Additionally, students should also be considering the following factors when choosing a college: size, location, cost, majors, campus environment, financial aid, selection criteria, athletics, and more!

You are not alone in going through the experience. Students should talk with their family and friends. They are also encouraged to:

1. Schedule a conference with their school counselor
2. Attend the evening programs held at Roosevelt for students and parents regarding college choice and financial aid planning
3. Attend meetings with college representatives at Roosevelt
4. Visit campuses to gain a sense of comfort level, programs, and facilities
5. Attend the National College Fair in the fall in addition to regional college fairs throughout the year
6. Use the many internet sites available to obtain information about schools, tests, scholarships, majors, and to complete applications

Please use this guide to assist you in this exciting process!

SELECTION PROCESS



Without question, the identification and selection of a college is an important decision, which often overwhelms students and their families. The idea that this process might be a fun and exciting learning process is often replaced by the obsession to do everything perfectly. A college admission is an inexact process filled with options, rituals, rumors, choices, opportunities for self-examination and responsibilities. There is no "perfect school", and the selection of a college is simply the next step in the educational process.

There is probably no more valuable tool in selecting an appropriate college than an honest SELF-EVALUATION. It is always fun to counsel those students who know themselves well, can articulate their uniqueness clearly, and whose parents/guardians generally agree with the assessment. It is difficult to watch a student apply to all the wrong places for all the wrong reasons. As counselors we try to lend perspective to the process of honest self-evaluation. When a student selects and applies only to unrealistic schools, it can make for an unpleasant spring. Even if a student is admitted to a school with a lifestyle and academic rigor that is radically different from the student's, it is unlikely that there will be successful adjustment. The best colleges to apply to are those that appear to have a high comfort level for the student.

This brings us to the list of schools. It is usually suggested that students apply to three or four schools, unless of course the student knows exactly where he/she wants to attend and knows that it is a sure thing. We generally recommend three levels of colleges.

- The **reach** school is the dream school and will be somewhat of a long shot.
- The **challenge** schools are schools where you are within the range of admitted students.
- Then we always urge students to have a **SURE THING**.

The most important consideration for selecting schools is to make certain that you would like to and are willing to attend any of the schools you apply to.



Qualities That Make a School Right for You!

The following pages are designed for you to consider important questions about colleges you may be interested in attending, or to assist you in identifying schools that may fit the unique individual you are. By taking the time to carefully ponder the topics covered here, you'll be able to come away with a clearer picture of the academic institutions suited to meet your needs.



SIZE:

Colleges vary in size from under 50 to over 60,000. Think carefully about which size is best for you both academically and socially.

Size Designations

- Small - 5,000 students and under
- Medium - 5,000 to 15,000 students
- Large - 15,000 to 30,000 students
- Very Large - over 30,000 students

Benefits of Smaller Colleges:

- Smaller class sizes
- Hands-on learning opportunities
- Individually designed majors
- Strong advising system; advisors tend to know students very well
- Strong sense of community
- Professors, not graduate students, tend to teach most courses
- Opportunity to get to know professors well because of small teacher/student ratio

Benefits of Larger Colleges:

- Wide variety of majors and courses
- Well-stocked libraries
- Variety of housing opportunities
- Well-funded sports programs
- Wide range of academic and social opportunities
- Distinguished or famous faculty



Ask Yourself:

- Do I have a strong need for accessible teachers, or can I live with having teachers available at their convenience?
- Do I enjoy small class sizes, or do I function better in larger lecture classes?
- Do I want to have many opportunities to become involved in leadership activities, or am I comfortable with an average number of leadership opportunities?
- Do I desire a personal atmosphere, or is a personal touch relatively unimportant to me?



ACADEMIC ATMOSPHERE

Academic environment includes academic/social emphasis, academic pressure, and other academic qualities. Naturally, since college is an academic undertaking, classes and other “academic things” make up the bulk of your collegiate experience. Yet finding the appropriate level of academic challenge is important to your choice of colleges.

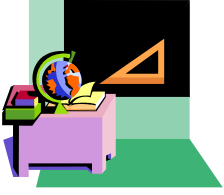
Consider the following (be honest with yourself):

- Do you want to attend a school where you work hard and study hard?
- Would you prefer a school where you could earn respectable grades without knocking yourself out?
- Do you truly enjoy talking about ideas and intellectual subjects?
- Do you respond well to academic pressure and to competition from others?
- Do you prioritize and organize yourself well?
- Can you discipline yourself?

If you answered “yes” to most of these questions than you may want to consider a school with a more challenging academic environment.

Other considerations:

- Would you like close teacher/student interaction?
- Will you need a tutor?
- Would you enjoy more freedom in regard to the courses you’re required to take?
- Would you prefer those requirements to be structured?
- Would work experiences and the availability of independent study enhance your academic success?
- Would you like a strong study-abroad program?
- What kinds of support services are offered?
- Is an ROTC program important to you?



Prestige: Competitiveness of Admissions

ACADEMIC ATMOSPHERE

It is incredibly important to be realistic here. The last thing you want to do is to place yourself in a situation that isn't right for you all in the name of attending a "selective school". When taking into account admissions difficulty, consider the following:

- The level of difficulty of your current and projected courses.
- The level of your curiosity, independence, and organization.
- Your competitiveness: How do you compare with others in your own high school?
- What are your standardized (ACT/SAT) and AP test scores?

These will aid you in determining the level of selectivity you may wish to pursue.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

This category refers to your potential college major and not your potential career. It's important for you to keep that distinction in mind. A major is a subject you enjoy and would like to study in college. A career is what you have chosen as a lifelong field of work.

Think about what you'd like to study in college. Liberal Arts and Sciences is the term used to describe the most general and the most common form of undergraduate education in the U.S. The liberal arts and sciences often serve as a springboard for future study (for example, graduate school, law school, medical school or business school) and for the world of work. If you are uncertain as to a career, then liberal arts and sciences will provide a solid preparatory framework to begin your studies. Liberal Arts includes:

- Humanities (English, Languages, Philosophy, Music, Art, etc)
- Social Sciences (Psychology, History, Political Science, etc)
- Hard Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Geology, etc)

Pre-professional programs such as Engineering, Business, Education and Architecture often prepares you for a career immediately after receiving your undergraduate degree.

It is perfectly OK not to know what your ultimate career will be. Most high school students do not know. In fact, coming to the wrong conclusion too early about a career is worse than not knowing. Most high school students have not been exposed to many career alternatives making a final career decision premature. The undergraduate years can be a time of discovery about yourself and your career goals.

Which academic program should I pursue? Consider the following:

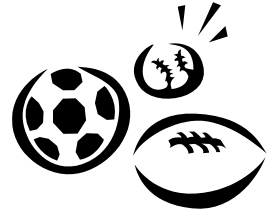
- I am uncertain as to a career. I should consider a Liberal Arts and Science course of study.
- I am interested in pre-professional training.
- I wish to be exposed to a number of different academic courses. Liberal Arts and Sciences would provide a wide range of academic topics.
- I wish to pursue a more career directed course of study.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

What do you enjoy doing? You may desire a normal variety of activities or you may be looking for a college that offers some specific activity.

What activities should the college you attend offer? Consider the following:

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Competitive Sports | Club Sports | Outdoor Recreation |
| Greek System | Intramural Sports | Service Learning |
| Art/Music | Theater | Other Clubs/Activities |



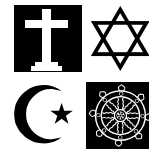
Make your own list _____

RELIGIOUS/ETHNIC ORIENTATION

Many colleges are affiliated with and supported by a specific religious denomination. Others have an historic or current orientation toward a particular ethnic group. Consider the relative desirability of a student body in which most of the students belong to a particular religious denomination or ethnic group. Insofar as religious orientation, some colleges have only historical relationships with churches, others have far closer relationships that extend to required theological coursework and/or religious practices.

Consider the following:

- I desire to be in a homogenous environment
- I want to be on a campus where religious life is emphasized
- I don't mind being on a campus that has an historical background, but I don't want to be required to take theology or be required to attend religious services
- I want to be on a diverse campus



COST AND THE AVAILABILITY OF FINANCIAL AID

Costs vary greatly from one college to another. Many students, however, make too many assumptions about costs too early in the process of choosing a college. There are many forms of financial assistance available. While most of the aid available is given to those who can demonstrate need, monies are also available for students who have achieved academic excellence or those with special abilities. It is essential to talk with your parents/guardians about the realities of their financial situation in regard to the colleges you'll be considering.

Consider the following:

- Is cost a major/minor factor in choosing a college?
- Are my parents and/or I prepared to pay for my college costs?
- Will I need a complete search of the financial options available to me?



LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

How important is location to you? You may wish to Consider the following:

- Is location more important than other qualities such as overall quality of the college, its academic offerings, size and cost?
- Do you want to attend a school close/far from home?
- Will you want to come home often (say once or twice a month) or would you prefer to limit home visits to major breaks?

It's important to think in terms of regions when considering the importance of location in college selection. Which of the following regions interest you?

Pacific Coast



Southwestern



Rocky Mountain



New England



Middle Atlantic



Southern



Midwestern



- How expensive is it for you and your family to travel to these regions?
- Do you have relatives or friends who live in the regions you've chosen?
- Do you prefer certain climates?

*Always keep in mind, you're choosing an academic environment where you will spend four or more years. You ARE NOT choosing a vacation site!

STUDENT BODY QUALITIES

You will likely find a wide variety of students at practically all colleges. Identifying some of the characteristics about students with whom you would feel most at home can be meaningful as you contemplate your college choices.

Consider the potentially important character traits of the students attending your college. Below is a list of words and phrases that describes students. First, circle any quality that describes the types of students with whom you would enjoy going to school. In the space provided below the list, write in any other characteristics you would like to find in your future classmates.

Adventurous	Down-to-Earth	Involved	Social	Aggressive
Career-Minded	Dress Conscious	Scholarly	Spirited	Ambitious
Energetic	Liberal	Spontaneous	Athletic	Friendly
Motivated	Supportive	Politically aware	Laid-back	Open
Tightly-knit	Caring	Idealistic	Outdoorsy	Tolerant
Creative	Independent	Conservative	Innovative	Religious
Unconventional	Cosmopolitan	Respectful	Diverse	Cultural



The Final Analysis

The Characteristics of your IDEAL College

You've just considered nine vital qualities or characteristics important to you in selecting a college. In the space provided below, summarize what you have discovered about the qualities you seek and their importance.

Example:

- I'm looking for a small college because I seek contact with professors and opportunities to get involved in lots of athletic activities. Size of the college is very important to me.
- I would prefer a college with many Catholic students.
- All locations are OK, but my preference is for colleges in California.
- I'm looking for a liberal arts and sciences college.
- It is very important for me to have a balance between academics and social life. I don't want a pressure-cooker college.
- I think I should pay particular attention to colleges which either cost less or where I might be eligible for some type of scholarship.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____

Common Pitfalls in the College Selection Process



1. Keep in mind the main reason you are attending college and do not place importance on trivial factors early in the process (keep an open mind).
2. **Choose** where **you** want to apply and don't let the choice "just happen" by doing what your best friend is doing or what your family wishes they would have done.
3. Do your homework and don't apply to schools that you really have no intention of attending.
4. Just because a college may have very high admission requirements does not make it better.
5. **START NOW! DON'T PROCRASTINATE BECAUSE YOU ARE NERVOUS OR SCARED.**
6. Don't second-guess the admissions staff and eliminate yourself. If you have wanted to go to ABC College since you were in grade school, apply. You will regret not having done so.
7. Don't assume you cannot afford to attend a certain school. Even though financially the school may be a long shot for you, you might be surprised at the financial aid package the college can put together.

Avoid the Pitfalls!

- Does the school offer the courses and type of program I want?
- Do I meet the admissions requirements?
- Is the school regionally accredited: that is, has an independent agency approved the school's policies and courses?
- Is the school for-profit or non-profit? Many for-profit school's credits and degrees are not recognized or transferable to non-profit, regionally accredited schools or by some employers.
- Does the school offer a quality education at a reasonable price?
- Have many of the school's graduates had successful careers?
- Is federal student aid available at the school?
- Does the school offer services I need and the activities I'm interested in?
- What measures are taken to ensure the safety of the students?
- What is the school's dropout rate?

Getting Organized for the College Search



6 Easy steps to get organized for the college application process

1

Early on in your college search – preferably in your junior year – set up a simple filing system for all your college materials. You can use a portable, plastic file box, an empty file drawer in a filing cabinet, or even a cardboard box. Buy a dozen or more file folders; light-colored ones work well because your handwritten notes on the inside flap will show up easily. Label a folder for each college on your “long list” – all colleges you think you might consider. At this stage, that might be ten or more. Every time you have a correspondence with a college, the materials you receive (brochures, invitation to a preview day, letter from an admissions officer, etc.) should be stashed in this file folder. So simple. So important! And, every time you do anything regarding this college – send for an application, give a recommendation form to a teacher, request SAT scores be sent there – write what you did on the inside flap of the folder. Then, months later, if you get a call from the college saying that crucial items are missing, you’ll be able to track them down. Set up additional files for your transcript, for SAT scores, for financial aid forms, for copies of the essays you write, etc. This file box will be your “command center” throughout the application process. It should be as complete as possible.

2

Now that you have your filing system in place, you’re ready to start collecting information. Write to all the colleges on your long list, requesting view books, brochures about areas of interest to you (e.g., study abroad, pre-law program), and applications for freshman admission when they are available. (Some are not available until late summer.) As the information comes in, read it and file it. If you visit the college and pick up the campus newspaper or take photos or notes of your impressions, file them, too. The more complete this file becomes as the year goes on, the more information you’ll have at hand on the fateful day when you must choose the one college you will attend.

3

When you take the SAT, sign up for Student Search. There will be a little box to check if you want colleges to contact you with information. Your scores, name, address, and other information you supply will be released to colleges, and if you do well on the SAT, your mailbox will be overflowing. This is a great way to learn about a college that you might have otherwise missed. As these materials start to arrive, you may want to create additional files by geographic area of the country (Northeast, South, Northwest, etc.) just in case one day down the road you decide to consider one of these schools.

4

Log onto your Naviance account often! When we say often we mean a least twice a week. Through Naviance you can do college and scholarship searches, find out and sign up for college rep visits to Roosevelt, find out what your ACT/SAT/PSAT scores are, keep track of your activities chart and list what college you are interested in and which ones you are applying to. You can access Naviance through the Roosevelt High School Counseling web site.

5 Make a “college search calendar” beginning with the spring semester of your junior year and continuing through the summer and first semester of your senior year. Plan now when you will be able to visit the colleges that you are the most interested in. Spring break of your junior year is a perfect time since colleges are usually in session. Summer is not as good a time to visit because you’ll only be looking at buildings – the students aren’t there. If there is any chance that you will be applying early decision to a college, it is all the more important that you visit it early because early decision deadlines hit early in the senior year. On this calendar that you are creating, record the early decision, regular admission, and financial aid deadline dates for all the schools to which you are applying. Record the dates of the exams (SAT, SAT II, ACT) that you plan to take and the deadlines for registering for them. If you are considering taking an SAT preparation course, put those dates on the calendar, too. As you look over the deadline dates, remember that the fall of your senior year will undoubtedly be very busy. Set some tentative deadlines for yourself for essay writing and filing application forms. Store this calendar in the front of your file box and refer to it often.

6 Get to know your counselor and the resources of Roosevelt’s counseling office. Did you know that you can access college and financial aid information through the schools website? Did you know that you can also get a mentor through ASPIRE to help guide you through the process? Through the counseling office, you can hear about college fairs and visits to Roosevelt by admissions representatives from colleges across the country. Take advantage of your counselor’s expertise and the considerable resources in the Roosevelt High School Counseling Office.

Now that you’re organized, you’re ready to begin the college search in earnest.

READ

everything you can about colleges and the application process

TALK

with college representatives, counselors, teachers, students now in college, your parents and family, people in the community, alumni of colleges that interest you

VISIT

college campuses (start locally with large and small, private and public to get a sense of what a college campus is all about), vocational schools, industries and businesses in your career field



How do Colleges Select Students?

College admissions officials will be the first to tell you that the admissions process is arbitrary, complex and uncertain. However, you do have a great deal of control over the process if you take the time and care to prepare well. After talking to many college admission advisors across the country regarding the student selection process, several common themes emerge. The following data is representative of how students are evaluated and selected by colleges and universities throughout the nation.

- State Universities typically have a set cumulative GPA requirement for admissions. In addition, specific academic requirements must be met before entrance is granted. This usually includes taking math through Algebra II, taking at least 2 years of a foreign language, and completing 4 years of English just to name a few. If a student does not meet the admissions requirements for a state university they will be required to submit additional materials.
- The private and more selective schools are looking at a number of factors. Selective colleges are searching for a well-rounded student body. This means that admissions officers are interested in seeing specific strengths and talents, which students can bring to their campus.
 - The quality of courses taken in high school in relationship to what is offered at that high school. (A near perfect GPA will not carry as much weight as a transcript with advanced and honors classes and a GPA of 3.4. Schools receive a copy of our school profile and know what types of courses are offered at Roosevelt. Remember: Junior and senior year courses and grades are the most important. Do Not Coast!
 - Class rank and GPA
 - Test scores: SAT, SAT II, ACT (prepare carefully and test several times if necessary)
 - Application and personal essay
 - School Counselor and Teacher letters of recommendation
 - In-depth involvement in some type of extra-curricular activities
 - Personal interview
- Present yourself in the best possible light: help the weary admissions officer by distinguishing yourself from the pack. Take time to write an interesting, thought-provoking essay, which will illustrate your individuality and strengths.
- Choose people to write recommendations who know you. Help them by making certain they have enough information about you to write a supportive letter highlighting your character, abilities, and interests. Also allow them the time to do a good job. Obviously a teacher who writes 35 letters of recommendation is going to have more time to give to the letters that are requested early. You should give people at least 4 weeks notice prior to your deadline!
- Colleges and Universities are interested in recruiting students who will make a difference. Take time to do community service or volunteer in some capacity. They want to see a person who cares about others.

**Every year we see very good students prepare mediocre applications because they were busy with school activities. Get together with friends and devote several hours a week to your college applications very early on. You will feel that you did everything in your power to prepare and present yourself favorably.

The Application Process: An Overview

1. Select the schools you will apply to and write, call, or use the Internet for applications
2. Distribute confidential data sheets and solicit school counselor and teacher recommendations/school report at a minimum of four weeks prior to your deadline. Follow-up on these to make sure they are being completed.
3. Set up a file system. Write important dates on the outside of each file folder. Make one master sheet of all schools and deadline dates.
4. Arrange for your standardized test scores (ACT/SAT) to be sent to the appropriate schools.
5. Order transcripts from your school counselor at least four weeks prior to your application deadline
6. Photo copy/print out your blank applications
7. Do a rough draft of your application and essays. Ask others to proof and help you spot problems. Try to do this rough draft far enough ahead of time so that you can review it several times over a period of a few weeks.
8. When you are satisfied (or the deadline is approaching) copy your final draft onto the original/online application.
9. Make a copy of/print out your finished product.
10. Pay the application fee. (requires a credit card if completing an online application) Talk with your school counselor about application fee waivers.
11. If you've submitted an online application, check to be sure you have actually submitted your application. The colleges usually confirm receipt of an application with an email. Most colleges also have a place on their web site where students can check to see if their application has been successfully submitted.

Preparing Résumé's & Activity Sheets

1. Brainstorm with friends and family and write down randomly all activities and awards. Include both school and out of school activities.
2. Organize the material into appropriate categories. You may list by activity/honor and year or you may have general headings for each grade level followed by activities/honors. Be creative, but consistent. The important thing is to be complete and to make your resume clear and easy to read.
3. Prepare a clean final draft and make copies.
4. Submit a copy to the counseling center for use in recommendation letters.

What should you list in your resume and/or activity sheet? Here are some ideas:

- Honors and/or awards received
- Service learning, community involvement, volunteering
- Clubs, Sports, Music, Art, etc involvement
- Leadership positions held (either elected or appointed)
- Scholarships already earned
- Jobs worked or currently working
- Published works such as poetry, short stories, art, etc
- Church/Spiritual involvement

****What ever you do make sure you put how long you have been involved in or done the things you list in your resume/activity sheet!**



College Application Essays: Strategies for Getting Started

1

Sketch out a sort of timeline of your life, answering these questions:

- What were the pivotal moments of your childhood, early teen, and high school years?
- What things were most important to you?
- Who were the people who played key roles in your development? Who are some of the unforgettable characters of your life?
- What activities or events have been most fulfilling, most frustrating, and/or most memorable?
- When were you the happiest, saddest, most embarrassed? What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you? What makes you laugh?
- When were you the most challenged?
- What is unique about you? What do you do that no one else does?
- What places and objects have the most meaning for you?
- What stories do you have to tell?

2

Looking at this timeline, pull out a few subjects that stand out, such as an embarrassing moment in Little League, a conversation you had with your grandfather that changed how you felt about death, the time you took on City Hall over censorship of library books. Construct a “mind map,” a sort of cluster of ideas out of each of these subjects. See how far you can get with each subject. If the Little League episode lacks detail or substance, maybe the conversation with your grandfather will bear fruit. At this step, you are trying to see what you have to say about these events or episodes. Could they bear development? Do they reveal important and interesting things about you?

3

There are no good or bad topics, only good or bad essays. Some of the best essays are written about the most mundane subjects: a fly on the wall, learning to drive, a pair of running shoes. The trick is to be fresh, lively, and original in how you treat the subject. Don't be afraid to look around you to find a topic of interest; the subject need not be cosmic in importance.

4

A word to the wise as you pick a topic: don't over-market yourself. Don't focus on the moment when you caught the winning pass in the championship game. It is better to poke fun at yourself than to boast – much better! The place to list your triumphs is in the list of extracurricular activities elsewhere in the application. Any editorial comment about your great achievements in your essays will come off as bragging. Admissions committees have the same response to bragging that the rest of us do: We don't like it!

5

Be original. If the question asks what invention most changed the world, don't say the television or the computer. Avoid the predictable. (Choose the post-it.) Admissions committees read thousands of essays on this subject. Give them (and yourself) a break by charting new territory. Figure out what most answers will be and avoid them.

6

All essays, even the big issue ones, are really autobiographical. Admissions committees aren't interested in inventions or literary works or your nominee for Man of the year – they're interested in learning more about you and how your mind works. Resist the temptation to write a research paper on one of these specific questions. Instead, make your response personal, distinctly yours. If asked to name the Man or Woman of the year, write an essay about someone you know well (your eccentric aunt, and exceptional teacher) rather than an essay about Bill Gates or Michael Jordan. If you are asked to write about an environmental problem,

relate it to your own work at the recycling center or your hobby of fly-fishing. Find a personal angle, a point of connection between the subject and your life.

7 Write something only you could write, and keep it simple. It should reflect your style, your substance, your humor, and your whim. Tell your story with the energy and naturalness you would use if you were writing a letter to a close friend. Don't write in a stuffy, academic style; don't overuse the thesaurus. Be sure your voice comes through loud and clear.

8 Write a great opening sentence. Grab their attention and never let go. Start with a dramatic vignette, a question, a startling revelation, dialogue between two people – just start in a way that will pull the reader in.

9 Use all the tools in your good writing bag: strong, active verbs, vivid descriptive language, varying sentence structure and length, and lots of specific, sensory detail. Don't overuse "I."

10 As with all writing, keep in mind who will be reading your essays. Be respectful. Take some risks with ideas, humor, or conversational language, but not at the expense of good taste. If in doubt, run it by a trusted adult.

11 Free yourself to write a few really rough first drafts. Don't go for perfection the first time. Experiment. You'll feel so much better to have something down, even if you change it later. Letting loose on a first draft can help create that freshness, liveliness, and humor that can make an essay great. Then go back and polish it up.

12 Allow yourself plenty of time to write your essays. After you've written a draft, leave it alone for a few days and then come back to it. It's amazing how much you can improve your first effort if you can come back to it a few times. If you make mistakes on the application, spill something on it, or if it looks anything less than crisp, clean, and neat, call or write for a new application for and redo it. Neatness makes a good impression.

13 After your essay is written, use all the resources at your disposal to make sure it is correct in all respects (spelling, grammar, punctuation, answers the question asked, required length, etc.) Listen to the feedback from a trusted teacher and parent and make corrections as needed. If they say you need to start over, start over. Your second essay will be even better because of what you learned writing the first one. Save a copy of every essay you write. You never know when you might be able to use that sterling effort again.

- Marilyn Langsdorf

"When you write your essay, consider simply telling a story. I can think of few college application essay topics including the weightiest, that don't provide the student with an opportunity to tell a story. I'm convinced that storytelling comes more naturally to most of us, and also more accurately expresses our nature, than does essay writing...I long ago figured out that some of the best essays I've ever read are simply stories well told."

- Fred Hargadon, Dean of Admission, Princeton

Applications & Letters of Recommendations

As a general rule (always check) state colleges and two-year colleges do not require letters of recommendation. However, if you will be applying to private schools and/or for scholarships, you will need a letter of recommendation from your counselor and at least one teacher. In order for us to complete your application materials, you must do the following:

1. Develop, type and submit a resume or activity sheet.
2. Pick up several pink confidential data sheets in the counseling center. Give these to staff people who know you and your work well. You may also ask an outside person (employer, church person, etc.) to write on your behalf. Include a stamped addressed envelope with such a request. These data sheets will be returned to your counselor and will be used to write your letter of recommendation. They are not seen by anyone but your counselor.
3. Complete a Personal Data sheet ("blue sheet") and return it to your counselor as soon as possible.
4. In addition to the "pink sheets," select a teacher to write an actual letter of recommendation.
5. To facilitate the preparation of your college materials and recommendations, please consider the following: make your recommendation/transcript requests **at least three weeks prior to the time you want your finished letters or materials**. The quality for which we are striving can only be reached by allowing teachers, secretaries and your counselor the time to prepare letters and application materials which you will be proud to send to prospective schools.
6. We are looking for ways to make you come "alive" on paper - any qualities, incidents, or illustrations which will set you apart from the norm will be helpful in this regard.
7. We want to show a prospective school where you are headed in your education career. You are a product of your past experiences and schools will view you as being on a continuum with an eye towards your potential.
8. When you ask teachers or other staff people to provide data for letters, make certain they are willing to give you the type of recommendation you want - this is not a time for humility.
9. If there is something in your records that needs interpretation (poor grades first half of junior year, etc.) - please make that information available to us.
10. The persons you ask to provide data for your letters of recommendation are giving you (and many others) valuable time and energy. Please let them know that you appreciate their efforts.

Testing Information



Roosevelt High School Small School Codes:
SEIS CEEB/ACT CODE: _____; POWER CEEB/ACT CODE: _____; ACT
CEEB/ACT Code: _____

There are many different testing options open to college-bound students. Not all students need to take all of the tests available. Students should check college admissions requirements to determine which tests are required.

As a general rule, all four-year colleges require at least one test. Every student should take either the SAT I: Reasoning Test and/or the ACT. In addition, many selective schools and all the Military Academies require the SAT II: subject tests. All of these tests may be taken several different times as usually the highest scores are considered for admission and scholarship purposes.

Registration materials for these tests can be obtained from your school counselor. There are stringent registration deadlines and most testing should be completed by December of the senior year unless the college specifies otherwise. Fees and registration forms are mailed directly to the testing service or done online. Be sure to indicate codes for colleges, scholarships, and Academies that you want to receive your scores. Schools generally require that the scores come directly from the testing agency and for this reason Roosevelt High School does not provide your test scores to any schools; you must arrange for your scores to be sent directly from the testing agency. There are testing fee waivers available for students who qualify. See your counselor if you are interested in a fee waiver.

In addition to the above admission test, the AP (Advanced Placement) test is available which enable students to obtain advanced standing and/or credit from some colleges. These tests are taken in the spring of each year. Check at the college you have selected to see how much credit can be earned.

The Oregon University System will accept either ACT or SAT I scores.

TESTING WEBSITES

CollegeBoard (SAT I, SAT II, AP): <http://www.collegeboard.com/>
ACT, Inc. (ACT): <http://www.act.org/>

TEST DESCRIPTIONS

SAT I: Reasoning Test

The SAT I is a primarily multiple-choice, which measures critical reading, mathematical reasoning, and writing abilities. The scores are based on a range from 200 (lowest) to 800 (highest) in each area.

SAT II: Subject Test

The SAT II: Subject Tests are primarily multiple-choice tests in specific subjects. Subject tests measure your knowledge of particular subjects and your ability to apply that knowledge. Some colleges require or recommend one or more of these tests for admission or placement purposes. Check the requirements of colleges under consideration before deciding which tests to take. The scores are on a 200 (lowest) to 800 (highest). These exams are given at the same time as the SAT I and the same registration form is used.

ACT (American College Testing Program Assessment)

The ACT Test measures academic achievement in English, mathematics, reading, and science reasoning. The test contains analytical and problem-solving exercises. Your ACT report will contain five separate scores ranging between 1 and 36. There will be one score for each test and a composite score, which is the average of the four subject areas. Students have the choice to sign up for the ACT plus Writing. Oregon state colleges require the writing portion if students are choosing to take the ACT for admissions.

CONSIDERING MILITARY SERVICE??

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) is the selection and classification test used by all branches of the United States Armed Services. The military services use ASVAB scores to help determine the qualifications of young people for enlistment and to help place them in military occupational programs. Since your ASVAB scores can have a big impact on what you will do in the military, a little preparation can go a long way. The tips listed on the following website are excellent and will help you conquer the ASVAB:

http://www.petersons.com/testprep/sept_asvab.html.



Athletics

NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse (General Information)

Student athletes who want to participate in NCAA Division I or II athletics should start the certification process early; by the end of their junior year or early in their senior year of high school. Students may obtain a copy of *Making Sure You Are Eligible to Participate in College Sports* and a Student Release Form (SRF) free of charge from your high school counselor.

To be certified by the Clearinghouse students must:

- **Graduate from high school**
Students should apply for certification before graduation, usually after their junior year. The NCAA Clearinghouse will issue a preliminary certification based on information available before graduation, so that the student is informed about any potential reasons that he or she may not be certified. Final certification will be issued only after receipt of a final transcript that includes proof of graduation.

TEST SCORES

- Division I has a sliding scale for test score and grade-point average
- Division II has a minimum SAT score requirement of 820 or an ACT sum score of 68
- The SAT score used for NCAA purposes includes only the critical reading and math sections. The writing section of the SAT is not used
- The ACT score used for NCAA purposes is a sum of the four sections on the ACT: English, mathematics, reading and science
- All SAT and ACT scores must be reported directly to the NCAA Eligibility Center by the testing agency. Test scores that appear on transcripts will not be used. When registering for the SAT or ACT, use the Eligibility Center code of 9999 to make sure the score is reported to the Eligibility Center

GRADE-POINT AVERAGE

- Only core courses are used in the calculation of the grade-point average
- Be sure to look at your high school's list of NCAA-approved core courses on the Eligibility Center's Web site to make certain that courses being taken have been approved as core courses. The Web site is www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Division I uses a sliding scale core grade-point average/test-score. This can be found at <http://eligibilitycenter.org>
- The Division II grade-point-average requirement is a minimum of 2.000

DIVISION I 16 Core-Course Rule	DIVISION II 14 Core-Course Rule
<p><u>16 Core Courses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 years of English 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher) 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school) 1 year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science 2 years of social science 4 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy) 	<p><u>14 Core Courses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 years of English 2 years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher) 2 years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school) 2 years of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science 2 years of social science 3 years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or nondoctrinal religion/philosophy)

(Source: <http://eligibilitycenter.org>)

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP CHECKLIST

- NCAA Clearinghouse Application – remember 4 digit PIN code 24 Hour voice Response Service: 1-319-339-3005
- Prepare: Practice Tests/tutor/class/books
- Check to see if schools you are applying to require the ACT or SAT II
- ESL students are required to take the TOEFL for admissions
- Money: Talk to parents about financial situation. Parents need to submit ACT Financial Need Estimator or CSS Money Planner to ascertain EFC. Investigate financial aid and scholarship options.
- Goals: Talk to current coach about which division and which schools are realistic for you.
- Research: Call the admission offices of the colleges you're interested in and request college view books, catalogs and applications for admissions. Ask if there is a special admission application for athletes. Note the due date and plan ahead. Read the catalogs. Develop you list of selections and complete applications.
- Letter of Recommendation: Meet with your school counselor early especially if you are applying to private schools and/or for scholarships. To receive the most comprehensive letter, you need to submit a packet of materials six weeks prior.
- Letter of Interest: You may want to send a letter to the coaches at the colleges that you are interested in. Include personal bests and concrete evidence of your accomplishments. Let them learn what kind of an athlete, team member and person you are. Include a schedule of meets/games. Do not ask for money – they know you want money.
- Make appointments with college admissions representatives when they visit our school.
- Visit college campuses. These are business trips. They may test how you handle situations. Be prepared with questions.
- Maintain necessary high school GPA.
- Breathe!!!!

Financial Aid & Scholarships

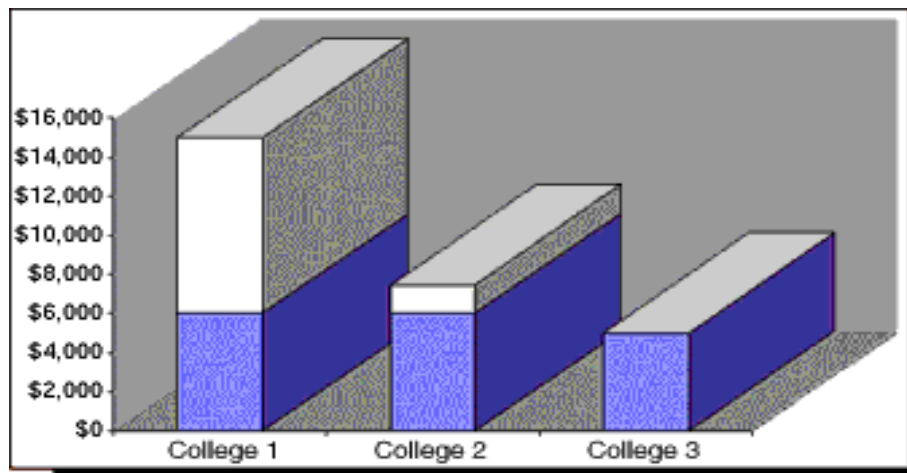


FINANCIAL AID

The cost of a college education continues to climb each year. A four-year state university will average about \$11,000 per year for tuition, room, board and books. Some private universities this year will cost over \$28,000 for one year. Seeking financial aid for help with college expenses takes time and persistence.

Basically there are two types of aid available for financing higher education. The most common type of aid is for demonstrated financial need. The second type of aid is the merit scholarship given to students with a talent or gift in a particular area. Certain merit scholarships can reward academic achievement, athletic ability, musical talent or other accomplishments.

There are four sources of financial aid for students: private, institutional, state and federal. The basis for disbursement of financial aid funds is a needs analysis that determines what the family contribution should be for a student. FAFSA, a federal form, is the application required for the needs analysis and this form helps define what an individual family is able to pay towards the cost of higher education. It is **required** by **ALL COLLEGES** for federal loan or grant consideration and some private funds. Another form, **PROFILE**, is required or accepted by approximately 700 colleges, universities, and scholarship programs to award their own **private** funds. After a dollar amount has been determined, it is the responsibility of the individual college financial aid officer to put together a package of aid for the student. The amount a family can contribute will always be the same no matter what college the student attends. However, depending upon the college, the demonstrated need will vary.



It is important to know that most financial aid and many scholarship awards are based primarily, or in part, on need. Families have the obligation of financing the education of their children to the extent that they are able. The FAFSA is used to assess the contribution a family can make considering such factors as income, assets, indebtedness, family size, number of children in college, etc.

No one receives the results of your financial aid application except those institutions you designate on the application (colleges and scholarship commissions.)

If you will need financial help for college, there may be several ways to receive assistance:

GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS

Monies that do not have to be repaid by the student or family. This is a gift.

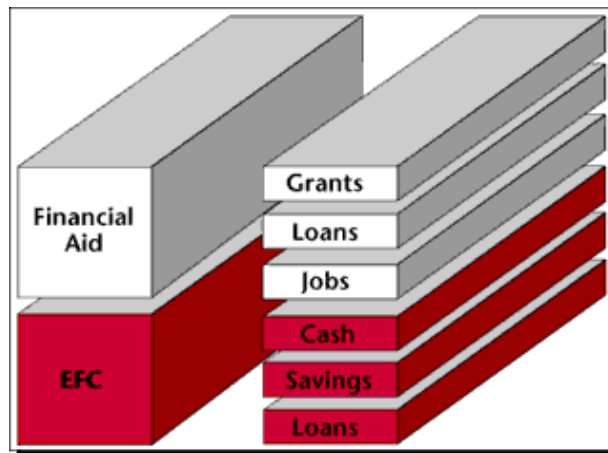
LOANS

Monies that must be repaid. Many loans have low interest rates and repayment may not begin for 3 to 6 months after the student leaves college.

WORK STUDY PROGRAMS

Payments of cash that the student receives for working at a job arrangement through the college.

If the college awards financial aid, it will be in the form of a financial aid package and will most likely be a combination of the above. Separate merit scholarships earned by a student may or may not be counted as part of the package.



It is important to not eliminate a school from consideration simply because of the cost. Many schools are eager to help students attend and work very hard to provide assistance. It is important to work closely with the financial aid office of the colleges to which you apply. After you have been admitted to your colleges, you will have a clearer picture of money available and it will be easier to make a decision if cost is critical.

Students apply online for Federal Financial Aid as soon as possible after January 1st. Money is disbursed by colleges after receiving the information on each student.

Many colleges will also have their own Financial Aid application form. When writing to colleges always ask for scholarship and financial aid information.

SCHOLARSHIPS

In addition to need-based monies, there are hundreds of scholarships available from private and public organizations. Roosevelt receives notification of many of these scholarships but there are

also many we do not hear about. You will find wonderful scholarship search engines on the Internet. Here are several which we expect you to use if you are looking for scholarships:

- www.fastweb.com
- www.collegeboard.org
- www.finaid.org
- <http://www.axa-equitable.com/axa-foundation/about.html>
- <http://www.collegeanswer.com/index.jsp>
- <http://collegedata.com/>
- <http://www.osac.state.or.us/>
- http://maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/2008_Scholarship_List.pdf

General scholarship application guidelines:

1. Follow instructions exactly - if they request information in your own writing, do so.
2. Most scholarships will request letters of recommendation and a transcript. You may use the same letters of recommendation that are used for your college applications. You can see that once you have secured your teacher recommendations and have that information on file in the Counseling Center, it will be easier for you to apply for many scholarships. Often the essay you use for some college applications may be suitable (perhaps with some modification) for some scholarships also. If the scholarship requests any of the above information, please provide us with your neat, finished application (including postage for mailing) and we will mail the entire packet as one. Again, if the instructions state differently, follow those guidelines.
3. If appropriate, you may want to put a cover page on your scholarship application with your name, the scholarship title and a picture of yourself. You may even want to place the materials in a clear plastic folder to make it more eye-catching.
4. Again, please have completed materials to the Counseling Center several weeks before the deadline.

Public vs. Private

PUBLIC COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

The Oregon University System (OUS) offers 7 public colleges and universities in the state. Applications may be filed online. In the fall, OUS offers a program where representative from all 7 of the schools travel together and visit high schools throughout the state. This OUS Tour allows students to get information from all 7 colleges at one time. Additionally, college representatives will visit Roosevelt on their own to talk more in-depth and one-on-one with interested students. Deadlines vary with early application due in the fall and regular admissions in early spring. To learn more about public colleges in Oregon you can visit the OUS website at <http://www.ous.edu/> or go to the colleges' website directly.

Other state school systems vary.

PRIVATE COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

As a general rule, private four-year colleges require entrance tests, letters of recommendation, essays, and an application. The more selective the school, the more involved the process. It is important to check the schools website and/or talk with an admissions representative.

Application deadlines vary greatly. Be acutely aware of December 1, December 15, January 1, or January 15 deadlines. Because of our Winter Break the school report/counselor recommendation section needs to be in the Counseling Center **FOUR WORKING WEEKS** prior to the deadline. It is up to the student to be aware of deadlines and to make sure all materials are completed in time for processing by the counseling secretary.

Glossary of Admissions Options

Colleges today offer a variety of application options, and you should be aware of the differences among the various programs. Determining whether and when to apply early to an institution could be an important part of your application strategy, so be sure to discuss this issue before you make any final decisions.

EARLY DECISION

When you decide to apply Early Decision, you are committing yourself to going to that school. Early Decision is for those early-bird students who already have a clear first-choice college. If you're still comparing colleges and don't want to limit your choices yet. Early Decision is not for you. Why? Early Decision is a contract between you and the college. You agree that if the college accepts you, you'll withdraw all other college applications and attend the early decision college. Because of this commitment, you can apply Early Decision to only one college.

RESTRICTED EARLY ACTION

Restrictive Early Action means that you apply to your school of choice and get a decision early. Be aware, though, that some schools restrict applicants from applying to any other early plans at other schools. If you go this way, you'll have until May 1 to confirm that you'll be attending.

EARLY ACTION

With Early Action, you just send your application in earlier, and the college sends you its decision earlier. Some colleges do have additional restrictions on their early action programs, though, so make sure to read carefully the instructions from each college.

REGULAR ADMISSIONS

Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly state period of time.

ROLLING ADMISSIONS

Institutions review applications as they are submitted and render admissions decisions throughout the admissions cycle

DEFERRED ADMISSIONS

1. An offer of admission from an institution for a semester, year, or even two years later than the semester for which the student had applied.
2. A decision by an accepted candidate to defer matriculation for a semester, year or more to travel, work, or complete other projects. Matriculation at another institution is generally not an acceptable reason for a student to defer admission.

CANDIDATE REPLY DATE

Except for those admitted under the Early Decision plan, applicants are not required to reply to an offer of admission before May 1. By that date, applicants should notify the one institution they intend to attend; submitting a deposit typically does this.

Early Admissions

If you are applying to a school on the Early Decision program, you are obligated to attend that college if you are accepted. Many early decisions deadlines are November 1 or November 15. Early decision is used by a student who has a very definite first choice college. Three actions can be taken by the college on this application:

1. Admitted
2. Deferred/Wait-Listed (Holding for review with the regular applicant pool, this will remove your obligation to attend if admitted).
3. Denied

Many private schools have Early Action, and a variety of other programs for admission procedures which do not obligate you if admitted.

Helpful Hints For Wait-Listed Students – Call the admissions office and state that this school is your first choice. Follow up the phone call with a letter. In it you might mention where else you have been accepted (if the school is competitive with you choice) and tell them why you are more suited for their college. Remain enthusiastic and TACTFUL! Try to determine what factor was weak on your application. Were your letters of recommendation strong? Have a teacher, coach or advisor write a letter to attest to a truthful markedly different performance that has happened recently. These letters should be anecdotal, not “general character reference,” citing specific examples of classroom and outside accomplishments. CAUTION: Admissions personnel do not want to be barraged at this time by “Big Gun” letters from Senators, trustees, or alumni. This is certainly overkill! Submit recent reports or essays. If any work you have done recently has earned special praise from teachers, submit it. Remember to put your Social Security number on this work. Have your counselor call the Admissions office on your behalf.

GENERAL INFORMATION

As you can ascertain from the above, applying to private schools generally takes more time and energy. However, the information required for most private schools is often the same or very similar and once you have gone through the process, it is easier to apply to the next school. You will also have a jump on materials needed for scholarship applications. The key is to begin early.

If you know you will be applying to selective private schools, schedule an appointment very early in the fall with your counselor to review the process. If you know definitely that you will apply only to one of the State System schools and that you easily meet the admission requirements, you can wait until later in the fall to begin your applications. When in doubt, start early.

Two-year State and Community Colleges do not generally require any testing or letters of recommendation. Most of them have a fairly simple application process and flexible admission requirements. The Counseling Center has a catalog detailing two-year colleges and vocational schools. See your counselor or the counseling secretary to review this information.

Getting Into that Highly Selective University

- Try to convey your true self- nothing impresses like an honest, accurate self-appraisal.
- Do the application process yourself- colleges are looking for mature, self-reliant young men and women- **NOT** their parents and family members. Don't get behind in the process- nothing looks worse than excuses.
- Essays alone won't get you in **but**-
 - Write in a solid style
 - A bad essay will keep you out
 - Don't be over wordy
 - Have several others check it over for honest feedback
- Recommendations
 - Get applications in early
 - Provide stamped, addressed envelopes
 - Check to see if it was sent
- Athletic Contracts
 - Coaches tell you great things- they don't make admissions decisions
- Interviews
 - If an interview is not required, but is recommended- DO IT
 - Call the school and ask them to send you a school newspaper- read up on current issues- ask questions.
- Campus Visits- by all means- be an active observer
- College Visits to your high school
 - Very important- get to know the college representative
 - If you can't stay- stop in and introduce yourself
 - Ask subjective questions (environment, etc.)
- Remember your senior year is just as important as every other year
- Keep in mind that you are being compared on a highly competitive, national basis
- Highly selective colleges look at everything- grades, SATs, school, community involvement
- A consistent, strong, and rigorous program is KEY to acceptance.
- C's in your first semester of the year are frowned upon
- A.P. Classes are valued, not just 4.0 GPA- Do you challenge yourself?
- If offered a position on the Wait List- take it if you really like the college. While you can't bank on final acceptance, it could be just the chance you need. Pursue with additional new information that can help you.



The Campus Visit and Interview

Before you start thinking about visiting any college some “homework” is in order. The first step is to begin looking through your school’s collection of college reference materials. You will want to become acquainted with such publications as The College Board Handbook, Lovejoy’s College Guide, and the many other materials your counselor has available. Certainly, you will want to start thinking about the kind of institution that interests you; you may wish to review the worksheet on identifying a college that fits you.

You can do all the reading in the world and all the talking to alumni, representatives and counselors; however, nothing will tell you as much about a college as your visit to the campus. A school which may appear to be a perfect fit for you on paper or video may have a very different atmosphere than what you had built in your mind. Whenever possible, visit the school you plan to attend.

If you are fortunate enough to be able to visit different colleges before you apply, that is wonderful but not necessary. It is only important that you do as much research as you are able, complete your applications and then plan your visitations after you have your acceptances in hand. One way to view this process--you are about to spend a great deal of money and four years of your life at this university and it is important to make an informed choice. Would you buy a car or house without seeing it?

Once you have decided upon the school(s) you want to visit, follow these guidelines:

1. Call and set up a time to visit. You can attend a college-organized visitation dates, but remember you will see their "company best". You will also want to melt into the campus to see and feel the atmosphere. Your counselor can help you arrange a visitation.
2. Ask for an appointment with an admissions official. Some colleges can arrange for you to spend the night in a dorm if you have the time and desire. Some colleges may have you interview with alumni.
3. Prepare intelligent questions and do not ask information that is readily available in brochures.
4. If possible, try to attend a class in your major area of interest and another class of an elective nature. Talk with the professor after class. Staff is usually eager to talk with prospective students and you will get a different view.
5. Wander about campus and ask other students questions. Most colleges have tours given by students. Ask frank questions of them, such as what they like and dislike about the school.
6. Relax. If you are visiting before you have been admitted, admissions officials say that an interview or visit rarely determines the outcome of an admission decision. Colleges are interested in helping you find a school that fits your needs. It is in their best interest to be honest and open with you. It is expensive for colleges to have students arrive who are not suited to that school.
7. Be on time, dress neatly and be assertive.
8. Take notes. If you are visiting several schools, they will start to run together in your mind.
9. Write a brief thank you note if you have received individual attention and time from staff.
10. Be sure to pre-arrange your college visitations with the attendance secretary.

What About Your Parents? Should your parents accompany you? This is up to you. Parents are often interested in seeing their children's prospective colleges. Most colleges welcome parents, however, when they interview a candidate, they like to have some time alone with the student. If parents are helping to foot the bill, surely they should be included in your tour.

Tips to Make your College Visit Count

1. Don't over do it. Be sure to allow at least a half-day per campus.
2. Give yourself adequate travel time between schools. Ask about peak traffic times. If you're going to be late for an interview, call.
3. Don your best consumer glasses. Too often students worry so much about how the college will judge them that they forget to judge the college. Kick the tires. Ask tough questions.
4. Develop critical skills close to home. Before you spend money on a major trip, visit a couple of colleges in your area. Tour a large and a small college. You'll see what you like and don't like, and you'll use your time on the road more efficiently.
5. Read before you visit. The college will gladly send you information. Just call. Also consult the college guidebooks at your school or local library. But don't mistake guidebooks for gospel. Remember, they only express someone else's opinions and sometimes are factually incorrect. Your watchwords should be "check it out."
6. Take the campus tour, but also roam widely. Spend time with students (either stay in a dorm or strike up conversations in the cafeteria). Ask for directions freely. It's a great way to get into conversations and talk to more than one student.
7. Get the scoop on academic life. Visit a class. Who teaches? Regular faculty or grad students? How large are the classes? Are the faculty excited about teaching? Are they accessible? And are the students energized?
8. While it's okay to visit in the summer (it's when you have time and the campus has some activity), fall and spring are ideal. Avoid visits during exam time or holiday breaks. The campus will look bleak and, during exams, students are generally stressed out and grumpy.
9. If the college offers interviews, schedule one. Call well in advance, some schools also offer an overnight stay in the dorms or a meeting with a faculty member.
10. Check out the dorms, libraries and computer facilities. And, if they interest you, visit the laboratories and arts and athletic facilities. Scan student newspapers and bulletin boards for telltale signs about campus culture and the level of extracurricular activity. Remember what Mark Twain said, "Never let your schooling interfere with your education." A great deal of what you will learn during college will happen outside the classroom.
11. Notice how well the buildings and grounds are maintained. Both are clues into the college's financial health.
12. Make sure you'll feel comfortable at the school. Check out campus activities. Is everyone included? And what about safety and security on campus?
13. Seek a soft fit. You are a dynamic, changing individual and your interests, both academic and extracurricular, are likely to change. Leave room for growth.
14. When visiting a campus, be sure to write down your thoughts in a journal while the experience is still fresh in your mind. When all of your campus visits are over, you will be able to compare your options more objectively.

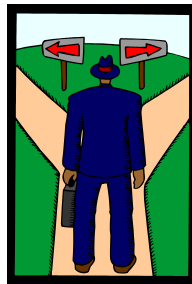
Final College Choices

You've just received your acceptance (or rejection) letters, so finally you can stop camping by your mailbox. Everything should be a breeze, right: You're headed to college and on to better and brighter things. If you're lucky enough to have more than one choice, there might be a problem in deciding which school you prefer. Suddenly, you panic and conclude that you're doomed to four years of misery if you make the wrong decision. Well, here are three points to keep in mind:

1. Remember, college, no matter where you go, is an ongoing process of adaptation and adjustment. Take this attitude and the decision won't seem nearly as monumental as you first thought.
2. Divorce yourself from everyone else's expectations. The school your parents attended twenty or thirty years ago may very well be a different place today.
3. As for following friends, fight the temptation. As comforting as it may be to go off to college with your hometown friends, the fact is, college is all about being on your own for the first time. It's a time for you to create your own life. Keep in mind, college is one of the easiest places to make friends, not to mention a good place to break the mold that's defined you for the last 18 years. Hauling your past to school might make the initial adjustment easier, but it won't contribute to your long-term growth.

Attention: Pre-Med Students:

Check out this web site; www.interviewfeedback.com. It is an incredible site which offers answers and insights from questionnaires filled out by actual medical school candidates. They give information regarding their interviews for medical school with specific interview questions, impressions of the interview, and impressions of the school. Includes information from many leading Med schools across the nation, including UC Davis and Oregon Health Sciences University.



Service Academies and ROTC Scholarships

Admission to service academies is by appointment only. Application to a service academy begins realistically in the junior year when a student submits a pre-candidate questionnaire to the academy. The academy will open a pre-admission file and evaluations will be sent to applicants in the summer. Information gathered in the pre-admission file will be used by the academy to provide the applicant's congressman with periodic status reports that may assist the applicant in being selected for a Congressional nomination. Students attend academies free of charge and earn a monthly stipend.

Prospective candidates must qualify scholastically, medically, and physically. The admissions Board examines each candidate's school records, SAT or ACT scores, recommendations from school officials, record of extracurricular activities, and other evidence of character, leadership potential, and academic aptitude and achievement. Students interested in service academies should see their counselor for complete information.

ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) scholarships provide for full college tuition and fees, books and supplies, and a monthly monetary stipend for the four years of college. While in college, a student generally majors in the field of his/her choice and spends approximately one hour three days per week in military science courses or activities. During summers while enrolled in college, the student spends some time at military camp. At the end of four years, he/she receives a college degree as well as a commission as an officer in the branch of service he/she selected. The student then serves four to five years of active duty.

To increase a student's chance of winning a four-year ROTC scholarship, he/she should:

- Take college preparatory classes if possible
- Concentrate on grade point average
- Be involved in leadership, extracurricular, community and athletic activities
- Take SAT or ACT in junior year and as often thereafter as needed--highest score counts. Have results of the SAT or ACT sent by using the appropriate ROTC codes
- As a junior, request a scholarship application as early as February 1
- Submit the completed application between April 1 and August 15 of the junior year for consideration in the first cycle (fewer applicants)
- Or, as a senior, submit the application between August 15 and December 1 for second cycle consideration
- Increase options by applying for Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC scholarships as well as service academies
- If not selected, enroll in freshman non-obligatory ROTC classes and then apply for three-year ROTC scholarship



ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS

SPRING OF JUNIOR YEAR write for an application to:

United States Naval Academy
Candidate Guidance office
Annapolis, Maryland 21402-5018
1-800-638-9156

Director of Admissions
U. S. Coast Guard Academy
New London, Connecticut 06320-4195
(203) 444-8501

Director of Admission
United States Military Academy
West Point, New York 10996-1797

Director of Admissions
U. S. Merchant Marine Academy
Kings Point, New York 11024-1699
1-800-732-6267

Director of Admissions
HQ USAFA/RRSS
United States Air Force Academy
Colorado Springs, CO 80840-5651
1-800-451-4612

WRITE FOR APPLICATIONS TO SET UP FILES FOR NOMINATIONS TO:

Senator Ron Wyden
United States Senate
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0001
Phone: (202) 224-5244
Fax: (202) 228-2717
Website: <http://wyden.senate.gov>
Email: <http://wyden.senate.gov/contact/>

Senator Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
107 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3753
Fax: (202) 228-3997
Website: <http://merkley.senate.gov/>
Email: <http://merkley.senate.gov/contact/>

Representative Earl Blumenaur
United States House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202)225-4811
Fax: (202) 225-8941
Website: <http://blumenauer.house.gov/>



Oregon State Colleges and Universities

The Oregon University System of higher education is comprised of seven colleges and universities:

University of Oregon, Eugene	Western Oregon University, Monmouth
Oregon State University, Corvallis	Eastern Oregon University, La Grande
Portland State University, Portland	Southern Oregon University, Ashland
Oregon Institute of Technology, Klamath Falls	

Admission requirements vary somewhat from campus to campus, so it is important to understand what each college or university requires before applying. To be admitted as a freshman requires the following:

1. Graduation from a standard or accredited school. Other requirements exist for non-graduates as well as graduates.
2. Completion of 14 units (or "year-long courses") of college preparatory work in the following areas:
 English (4 units), Mathematics (3 units, through Advanced Algebra), Science (2 units),
 Social Studies (3 units), and Foreign Language (2 units)

SAT or ACT scores are intended to help primarily with academic advising and course placement. However, if the high school GPA is below the minimum requirement, the test scores can be used to qualify a student for admission. For alternative ways to satisfy the subject requirements consult the State's bulletin for prospective students.

Minimum High School GPA Requirements for State Schools

University of Oregon	3.00*	Western Oregon University	2.75
Oregon State University	3.00	Eastern Oregon University	3.00
Portland State University	3.00	Oregon Institute of Technology	3.00
Southern Oregon University	2.75		

*Guaranteed admission with 3.40 AND 16 units of subject requirements (the regular OUS 14 unit requirements plus two additional academic units).

Oregon's Private Colleges & Universities

Each of Oregon's eighteen regionally accredited private colleges and universities has a unique campus environment and curriculum. For admission and financial aid information contact each college directly.

Concordia College, Portland
Corban College, Salem
George Fox University, Newberg
Lewis and Clark College, Portland
Linfield College, McMinnville
Marylhurst College, Marylhurst
Mount Angel Seminary, St Benedict
Multnomah University, Portland
Northwest Christian University, Eugene

Oregon College of Art and Craft, Portland
Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland
Pacific University, Forest Grove
Reed College, Portland
University of Portland, Portland
University of Western States, Portland
Warner Pacific College, Portland
Western Seminary, Portland
Willamette University, Salem

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Applicants to the University of California schools must meet the subject, scholarship and examination requirements to be eligible for admission to the University as freshmen. If they do not meet the subject and scholarship requirements, however, it is possible to qualify for admission by examination alone. The nonresident scholarship requirement is a 3.4 minimum GPA in the core subjects, regardless of the College Board test scores. By examination alone the student must score 1400 on the SAT I or 31 on the ACT. The total score on the three College Board SAT II tests must be a minimum of 1850 with a minimum score of 530 on any single test. These GPA and score requirements must be seen as minimums and do not guarantee admission.

The subject requirements at the UC campuses are as follows: English (4 years), Mathematics (3 years required, 4 years recommended), Foreign Language (2 years required; 3 years recommended), Social Science (2 years), Laboratory Science (2 years required, 3 years recommended), Visual and performing arts (1 year sequential), College-Preparatory Electives (1 year).

Information from the individual campuses is available from the admissions offices at the following addresses:

University of CA, Berkeley, CA 94720
University of CA, Davis, CA 95616
University of CA, Irvine, CA 92697
University of CA, Los Angeles, CA 90095

University of CA, Riverside, CA 92521
University of CA, San Diego, CA 92093
University of CA, Santa Barbara, CA 93106
University of CA, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Applications to any University of California campus must be submitted between November 1st and 30th. Students can apply to several campuses at once and there is an appeal process if the applicant is initially rejected. Application is self-report. A final transcript will be sent upon completion for the 8th semester. Official standardized test scores must be sent directly to each campus.

UCLA has an admission liaison officer for out-of-state applicants.

Community Colleges in Oregon

When deciding where to pursue education/training after high school, a student should consider community colleges as a viable option. Some of the features of community colleges: least expensive college, by far; you don't need any particular GPA to be admitted; don't require the SAT or ACT, but rather use their own placement tests; classes are for the most part smaller than those at a 4-year school; instructors are there because they love to teach, not to do research or publish; classes are offered at various levels of difficulty in English and math, so the student starts at a point where he/she can be successful; many services (counseling, tutoring, advising, medical, assistance with disabilities, etc.); offer developmental/remedial, vocational-technical, college transfer programs, dual enrollment with 4-year colleges—many options!; students undecided about a major or who have other concerns can take career planning, study skills, and other support courses; the age range of students allows one to hear many perspectives; in general, students can figure out how their learning style fits with the instructional approach (more hands-on, experimental, lecture, intern/apprentice, etc.) in various courses/programs.

Many students with bachelor's degrees are coming to the community colleges to gain some career-related skills and information. If you are of a practical nature, and would prefer to complete your college in 2 or 3 years and get on with earning a living, and won't miss the residential/social aspect of living at a 4-year school, PCC, MHCC, CCC, or one of the other excellent community colleges in the area/state may be for you!

Blue Mountain Community College

2411 NW Carden Ave.
PO Box 100
Pendleton, OR 97801-1000
(541) 276-1260
<http://www.bmcc.cc.or.us>

Central Community College

2600 NW College Way
Bend, OR 97701-5998
(541) 383-7700
<http://www.cocc.edu>

Chemeketa Community College

4000 Lancaster Dr. NE
PO Box 14007
Salem, OR 97039-7070
(503) 399-5000
<http://www.chemeketa.edu>

Clackamas Community College

19600 S. Molalla Ave.
Oregon City, OR 97045
(503) 657-6958
<http://www.clackamas.cc.or.us>

Clatsop Community College

1653 Jerome Ave.
Astoria, OR 97103-3698
(503) 325-0910
<http://www.clatsopcollege.com>

Columbia Gorge Community College

400 E. Scenic Drive
The Dalles, OR 97058-3434
(541) 296-6182
<http://www.cgcc.cc.or.us>

Klamath Community College

7390 South Sixth St.
Klamath Falls, OR 97603-7121
(541) 882-3521
<http://www.kcc.cc.or.us>

Lane Community College

4000 East 30th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97405-0640
(541) 747-4501
<http://lanecc.edu>

Linn-Benton Community College

6500 Pacific Blvd. SW
Albany, OR 97321-3779
(541) 917-4999
<http://www.lbcc.cc.or.us>

Mt. Hood Community College

26000 SE Stark St.
Gresham, OR 97030-3300
(503) 491-6422
<http://www.mhcc.cc.or.us>

Oregon Coast Community College

332 SW. Coast Highway
Newport, OR 97365-4928
(541) 265-2283
<http://www.occc.cc.or.us>

Portland Community College

12000 SW. 49th Ave.
PO Box 19000
Portland, OR 97280-0990
(503) 244-6111
<http://www.pcc.edu>

Rogue Community College

Redwood Campus
3345 Redwood Highway
Grants Pass, OR 97527-9298
(541) 956-7500
<http://www.rogue.cc.or.us>

Southwestern Oregon Community College

1988 Newmark Ave.
Coos Bay, OR 97420-2971
(541) 888-2525
<http://www.southwestern.cc.or.us>

Tillamook Bay Community College

2510 First Street
Tillamook, OR 97141-2599
(503) 842-2214
<http://www.tbcc.cc.or.us>

Treasure Valley Community College

650 College Blvd.
Ontario, OR 97914-3498
(541) 881-8822
<http://www.tvcc.cc>

Umpqua Community College

1140 College Rd.
PO Box 967
Roseburg, OR 97470
(541) 440-4637
<http://www.umpqua.cc.or.us>

Resources Available on the Internet

- <http://www.collegeboard.org> College Board online
- <http://www.collegeview.com> College View online version
- <http://www.collegeplan.org> College Search
- <http://www.ecola.com/college> College Search by City & State
- <http://www.nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cool> College Opportunities Online (COOL)

Exploring Financial Aid

- <http://www.finaid.org> Comprehensive Financial Aid Info
- <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/express.html> Electronic FAFSA
- <http://www.fastweb.com> Financial Aid Information

Exploring Scholarship Opportunities

- <http://www.studentservices.com/fastweb> Private scholarship search
- <http://www.collegesmart.com> Financial Aid Calculation
- <http://www.nhelp.net/> College Funding Company
- <http://www.gocollege.com> College/Scholarship Search
- <http://www.finaid.org/nasfaa> Wide Array of Scholarships and Grants
- <http://www.ftc.gov> Scholarship Seams and How To Avoid Them
- <http://www.cs.cmu.edu> Financial Aid Bibliography/Scholarship Link

Exploring Loan Opportunities

- <http://www.nelliemae.org> NellieMae – Loan Information
- <http://www.teri.org> The Educational Resources Institute
- <http://www.mefa.org> Mass Ed. Loan Authority

Test Preparation

- <http://www.review.com> Princeton Review Site
- <http://www.kaplan.com> Kaplan Site
- <http://www.testprep.com> SAT Prep

College Home Pages

- <http://www.mit.edu:8001/people/cdemello/univ.html> Princeton Review Site

Community Colleges

- <http://www.mcli.dist.maricopa.edu/cc/> Web Site for 1095 Community Colleges

Other Useful Websites

- <http://www.nassp.org> Common App. On-Line
- <http://www.educationindex.com> Comprehensive Catalog.Ed Resources
- <http://www.niep.com> College Tours

College Search Questionnaire

-M. Langsdorf

Name your five highest priorities in a college (e.g., strong faculty, academic strength, major in engineering, water polo team, small classes, located in Northwest).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Name five things that would enhance your college experience but that are not absolutely necessary (e.g., foreign language dorm, winning football team, close to skiing, in a sunny state).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Name five things that you are doing now that you hope to continue doing in college (e.g., play on a basketball team, debate, write for the newspaper, act in plays).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Name three new things that you'd like to try in college (e.g., playing lacrosse, working at a college radio station, joining a fraternity, taking marine biology).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Name five things you would absolutely hate in a college (e.g., huge lecture classes, being taught by grad students, living in a coed dorm, crime in the surrounding area, knowing every single person in the college).

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Would you prefer a college that is liberal, conservative, or middle-of-the-road in atmosphere and curriculum?

How do you expect to spend your weekends when you are at college?

- A. Coming home
- B. Studying
- C. Studying and socializing in equal measure
- D. Having fun

Do you prefer a school with an academic atmosphere that is:

- A. Stimulating and intellectual, with a strong emphasis on academics and many bright, talented students
- B. Stimulating but not a grind – balanced between the academic and the social
- C. Easy-going academically – not intense

How far from home would your ideal college be?

- A. Two or three hours drive at most
- B. Out of state, but in the West
- C. Across the country (Northeast, South, etc.)

Have you targeted a particular area? If so, what area? Why?

Where would your ideal college be situated?

- A. In an exciting big city
- B. In a small college town
- C. In a rural area
- D. In the suburbs within reach of a big city

Are there any “dream” activities that would really add to your experience (e.g., excellent theater company, lots of concerts, award-winning newspaper, comedy club, top debate team, surfing or snowboarding team)?

How do you feel about sororities and fraternities?

- A. Would like to join one, or at least consider it
- B. Would prefer a college without the Greek system
- C. Don't care one way or the other

What academic areas are you most likely to pursue in college? What specific academic programs should your college choices offer?

How will you handle college costs? How does cost enter into your decision process?

Off the top of your head, what are some of the colleges that sound interesting to you? Are there any colleges that you definitely do *not* want on your list?

Extracurricular, Personal, and Volunteer Activities (including summer)

Activity	Grade Level	Hrs./ Week	Wks. / Year	Positions held, honors won, or letters earned

Academic Honors:

Work Experience:

Specific Nature of Work	Employer	Dates	Number of Hours
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Note: This page duplicates the format and information requested on the 2004-2005 Common Application.

Junior Year College Planning Calendar

(taken from the NACAC website)

Begin college selection process. Attend college fairs, financial aid seminars, general information sessions, etc., to learn as much as you can about the college application process. Make sure you are meeting NCAA requirements if you want to play Division I or II sports in college.

September

- Register for the October PSAT. Meet with your guidance counselor to review your courses for this year and plan your schedule for senior year.
- Save samples of your best work for your academic portfolio (all year).
- Maintain your co-curricular record (all year).

October

- Junior year PSAT scores may qualify a student for the National Merit Scholarship Competition and the National Achievement and the National Hispanic Scholars Programs. So, even though these scores will not be used for college admission, it is still a good idea to take the PSAT. The more times you take standardized tests, the more familiar you will become with the format and the types of questions asked. If you wish to receive free information from colleges, indicate on the PSAT test answer form that you want to participate in the Student Search.

November

- Junior year grades are extremely important in the college admission process, because they are a measure of how well you do in advanced, upper-level courses. Grades also are used to determine scholarships and grants for which you may be eligible. So put in the extra effort and keep those grades up!
- If you will require financial aid, start researching your options for grants, scholarships and work-study programs. Make an appointment with your guidance counselor or start by visiting NACAC's Web Resources for the College-Bound to do research on your own using the Internet.

December

- During December you should receive the results of your PSAT. Read your score report and consult your school counselor to determine how you might improve on future standardized tests. The PSAT is excellent preparation for the SAT Reasoning Test, which you will take in the spring.
- If you plan to take the ACT, register now for the February ACT. Many colleges accept the ACT (American College Test) or the SAT Reasoning Test. Some colleges require the ACT or both SAT Reasoning Test and the SAT Subject Tests. When you begin to explore different colleges and universities, double-check to see if they prefer or require the ACT, the SAT Reasoning Test and/or the SAT Subject Tests.

January

- Begin to make a preliminary list of colleges you would like to investigate further. Surf the Internet and use the college resources in the guidance office or library.
- Ask your parents for your Social Security number (required on many college applications). If you were never issued a Social Security number, contact the closest Social Security office as soon as possible to obtain a number.

February

- Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss your preliminary list of colleges. Discuss whether your initial list of colleges meets your needs and interests (academic program, size, location, cost, etc.) and whether you are considering colleges where you are likely to be admitted. You should be optimistic and realistic when applying to colleges.

- Register for the March SAT Reasoning Test if you have completed the math courses covered on the SAT Reasoning Test. If not, plan to take the SAT Reasoning Test in May or June. Prepare for the SAT Reasoning Test or ACT by signing up for a prep course, using computer software, or doing the SAT/ACT practice tests available in the counseling office or at bookstores. But don't spend so much time trying to improve standardized test scores that grades and co-curricular involvement suffer.

March

- Write, telephone, or use the Internet to request admission literature and financial aid information from the colleges on your list. There is no charge and no obligation to obtain general information about admission and financial aid.

April

- When selecting your senior courses, be sure to continue to challenge yourself academically.
- Register for the May/June SAT Reasoning Test and/or the May/June SAT Subject Tests. Not all SAT Subject Tests are given on every test date. Check the calendar carefully to determine when the Subject Tests you want are offered. Register for the June ACT if you want to take that test.
- Continue to evaluate your list of colleges and universities. Eliminate colleges from the original list that no longer interest you and add others as appropriate.
- Look into summer jobs or apply for special summer academic or enrichment programs. Colleges love to see students using their knowledge and developing their skills and interests.

May

- Attend a college fair to get more information about colleges on your list. NACAC sponsors college fairs in cities across the country during the fall and the spring. Visit NACAC's [National College Fairs Web page](#) to check out the schedule for the National College Fairs and the Performing and Visual Arts College Fairs.
- Get a jump start on summer activities-consider enrolling in an academic course at a local college, pursuing a summer school program, applying for an internship, working, or volunteering. If you work, save part of your earnings for college.
- Begin visiting colleges. Phone to set up appointments. Interviews are always a good idea. Many colleges will tell you they are optional, but an interview will show interest, enthusiasm and initiative on your part and provide an excellent opportunity to have your questions answered. Do a practice interview with your counselor, teacher, employer, or a senior who has had college interviews. Set up interviews as early as possible-interview times become booked quickly!
- Take the SAT Reasoning Test or the SAT Subject Tests.

June

- After school ends, get on the road to visit colleges. Seeing the college firsthand, taking a tour and talking to students can be the greatest help in deciding whether or not a school is right for you. Although it is ideal to visit colleges during the academic year, going in the summer will be valuable. Admission offices employ their students to give tours and answer questions from prospective students and their parents.
- Take the SAT Reasoning Test, the SAT Subject Tests and/or the ACT.

July

- Visit colleges, take tours, have interviews and ask questions. Make college visiting a family event. Involve your parents and siblings in every step of your application process. Choosing the right college is a tough decision; the opinions of those who know you best can provide helpful insight into which college is best for you.

August

- Continue to refine your list of potential colleges and universities.
- Begin preparing for the actual application process: draft application essays; collect writing samples; and assemble portfolios or audition tapes. If you are an athlete and plan on playing in college, contact the coaches

at the schools to which you are applying and ask about intercollegiate and intramural sports programs and athletic scholarships.

- Complete the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse form if you hope to play Division I or II sports. (This form cannot be mailed until you finish your sixth semester of high school.)

Senior Year College Planning Calendar

(taken from the NACAC website)

Apply to colleges. Make decisions. Finish high school with pride in yourself and your accomplishments.

September

- Make sure you have all applications required for college admission and financial aid. Write, phone, or use the Internet to request missing information.
- Check on application and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply. They may vary and it is essential to meet all deadlines!
- Meet with your guidance counselor to be sure your list includes colleges appropriate to your academic and personal record. Review your transcript and co-curricular records with your school counselor to ensure their accuracy.
- Register for the October/November SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Tests, or September/October ACT.
- If the colleges require recommendations, ask the appropriate people to write on your behalf. At least three weeks before the due date, ask your counselor and teachers, employers, or coaches to write letters of recommendation. Provide recommendation forms, any special instructions and a stamped, addressed business envelope to the people writing your recommendation. Be thoughtful! Write thank-you notes to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decisions.
- Plan visits to colleges and set up interviews (if you didn't get to them during the summer or if you want to return to a campus for a second time). Read bulletin boards and the college newspaper. Talk with current students and professors.

October

- Attend a regional college fair to investigate further those colleges to which you will probably apply. Visit the [College Fairs section on NACAC's Web site](#) to view the schedule for NACAC's National College Fairs and the Performing and Visual Arts College Fairs.
- Mail applications in time to reach the colleges by the deadlines. Check with your guidance counselor to make sure your transcript and test scores have been/will be sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
- If applying for early decision or early action, send in your application now. Also prepare applications for back-up schools. Remember, if you are accepted under the early decision option, you are expected to enroll at that college and to withdraw all other applications. Submit financial aid information if requested from early decision/action candidates.
- Register for the December/January SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Tests, or December ACT if you have not completed the required tests or if you are not happy with your previous test scores and think you can do better.
- Have official test scores sent by the testing agency to colleges on your list.

November

- Take the SAT Reasoning Test or SAT Subject Tests if appropriate. Don't forget to have test scores sent to colleges on your list.
- Be sure your first quarter grades are good.
- Continue completing applications to colleges. Make copies of all applications before mailing the applications.
- If you need financial aid, obtain a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) from your guidance office. Check to see if the colleges to which you are applying require any other financial aid form. Register for the CSS Profile if required and obtain the college's own financial aid forms, if available.
- Keep all records, test score reports and copies of applications for admission and financial aid. Do not throw anything away until at least the end of your first year in college. Having detailed records will save you time and effort should anything be lost or should you decide to apply in the future to other colleges and scholarship programs.

December

- Have official test scores sent to colleges on your list if you have not done so.
- Consult your school counselor again to review your final list of colleges. Be sure you have all bases covered. It is a good idea to make copies of everything before you drop those envelopes in the mail. If for some reason your application gets lost, you will have a back-up copy. File your last college application.
- If you applied for early decision, you should have an answer by now. If you are accepted, follow the instructions for admitted students. If the decision is deferred until spring or you are denied, submit applications now to other colleges.

January

- Keep working in your classes! Grades and courses continue to count throughout the senior year.
- Request that your counselor send the transcript of your first semester grades to the colleges to which you applied.
- Parents and students, complete your income tax forms as soon as possible. You will need those figures to fill out the FAFSA. Complete and return your FAFSA as quickly as possible after January 1. Check to make sure your colleges or state does not require any other financial aid forms. If they do, consult your guidance counselor or contact the college's financial aid office.

February

- Remember to monitor your applications to be sure that all materials are sent and received on time and that they are complete. Stay on top of things and don't procrastinate; you can ruin your chances for admission by missing a deadline.
- If you completed a FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within four weeks after submitting the FAFSA. Review the SAR carefully and check for any inaccuracies. If necessary, correct any items on the SAR and return it to the FAFSA processor (if a college transmitted your data directly, notify the college of any change).
- If more than four weeks have passed after sending in your FAFSA and you have not received an acknowledgment, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (319) 337-5665. To identify you, they will need your name, social security number, address, and date of birth exactly as it was written on your FAFSA.
- Complete scholarship applications. You may be eligible for more scholarships than you think, so apply for as many as you can.
- Enjoy your final year in high school, but don't catch senioritis!

March

- Stay focused and keep studying-only a couple more months to go!

April

- Do not take rolling admission applications for granted. (Some colleges do not have application deadlines; they admit students on a continuous basis.) These schools may reach their maximum class size quickly-the earlier you apply, the more availability there may be.
- Review your college acceptances and financial aid awards. Be sure to compare financial aid packages in your decision-making process. If you are positive you will not enroll at one or more of the colleges which accepted you, please notify those colleges that you have selected another college. Keeping colleges abreast of your plans might enable those colleges to admit someone else. If you know which college you will attend, send your tuition deposit and follow all other instructions for admitted students. You must decide which offer of admission to accept by May 1 (postmark date).

May

- By May 1, decide on the one college that you will attend. By May 1, send in your tuition deposit to the college you will attend. Notify the other colleges that accepted you that you have selected another college.
- BE PROUD-you have completed a difficult task.

- If your first-choice college places you on their waiting list, do not lose all hope. Some students are admitted off the waiting list. Talk with your counselor, and contact the college to let them know you are still very interested. Keep the college updated on your activities.
- Take Advanced Placement examinations, if appropriate and request that your AP scores be sent to the college you will attend.

June

- Request that your counselor send your final transcript to the college you will attend. Notify the college of any private scholarships or grants you will be receiving.
- Know when the payment for tuition, room and board, meal plans, etc., is due. If necessary, ask the financial aid office about a possible payment plan that will allow for you to pay in installments.
- Congratulations, you've made it through high school! Enjoy your graduation and look forward to college.

July

- Look for information in the mail from the college about housing, roommate(s), orientation, course selection, etc. Respond promptly to all requests from the college. August-September
- Ease the transition into college. Accept the fact that you'll be in charge of your academic and personal life. What you do, when you do it and how things get done will be up to you. You'll have new responsibilities and challenges. Think about budgeting your time and establishing priorities. Take charge of the changes that lie ahead and eliminate or minimize pressures. Go forth with confidence and enthusiasm, willingness to adapt and determination to succeed academically and personally.
- Pack for college. Don't forget to include things that remind you of friends and family. Be prepared for the new opportunities and challenges. Have a great freshman year!